

MAY 23-29, 2018 | CITYPAGES.COM | FREE

CITY PAGES

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**THE FROZEN
PIZZAS OF
MINNESOTA,
RANKED**



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MUSIC Why's everyone moving to L.A.? p. 29

Shark Bite

ABSOLUT LIME

MIXOLOGY: Muddle a cherry at bottom of lowball glass. Shake and pour over ice 1.5 oz Absolut Lime, 1 oz blue sweet & sour schnapps, sour, and lemon-lime soda. Pour into glass and add a few drops of grenadine.

FIND CHRISTINA AT: 2520 26th Avenue South, Minneapolis

HOBBIES: Movies, Comic Books, Drawing, and Singing

HIDDEN TALENT: I have a great memory

FAVORITE MN EXPERIENCE / EVENT: Lowertown Art Crawl or MN State Fair

FAVORITE MUSIC ARTIST / GROUP: Portishead, Gorillaz, White Rabbits,

DJ Shadow, Tricky

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MOST ANNOYING THING SOMEONE CAN DO TO GET YOUR ATTENTION: snap or hiss

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OF THE WEEK

Christina



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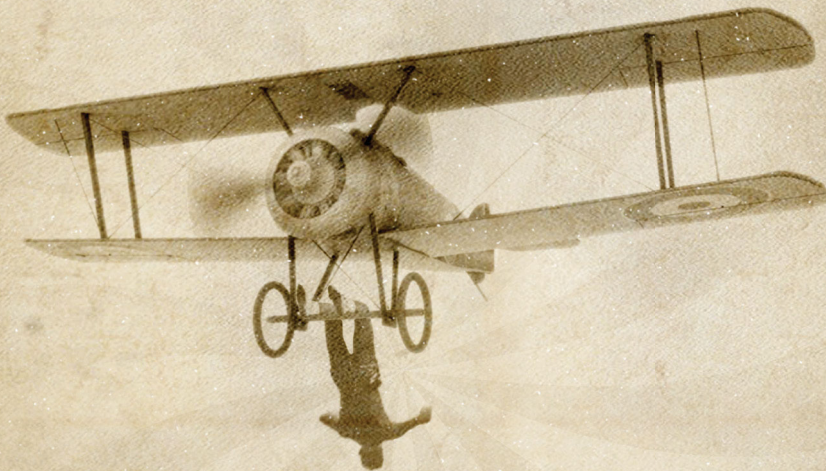
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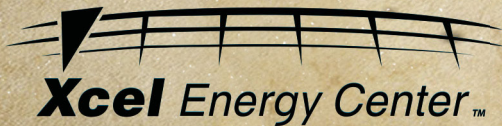


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THE SHORTLIST

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AARON LAVINSKY, STAR TRIBUNE

THE STAT SHEET

Special thoughts and prayers edition!

22

Number of
school shootings
in America this year (so far)

80

Percentage of U.S. gun owners
who favor universal background checks

101

Total mass shootings
in the U.S. this year

0

Bills passed by
the Minnesota Legislature this year
to address rampant gun violence

"The CEO of 3M could have kept the 150 people I was laid off with and still made 174 times the average employee? Isn't that just another kick to the groin."

Reader Paul Drake responds to "3M, United-Health, Ecolab make list for most gluttonous CEOs," at citypages.com.

RANSOM NOTES

IF A MANUFACTURER dumps toxic sludge into a river, it doesn't get a tax break as compensation to stop threatening the public good. But that's what Minnesota farmers are seeking.

Roughly 50 percent of the state's lakes and waterways are below clean water standards, largely due to farm chemicals. Yet 15 of Minnesota's biggest ag groups are demanding tax breaks to create buffer strips near water, as if they're owed something to relinquish their right to pollute.

Much of the water in southwest Minnesota is already too toxic to fish or swim. Now farmers seem to be issuing a ransom note: Pay up, or the rest of the state is next.

POPULAR STORIES

AT CITYPAGES.COM

BAR LOUIE closed: Uptown Minneapolis bar suddenly shuts

TOMI LAHREN: A deliciously predictable fact about her Minnesota ancestors

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA caves to pressure on abortion rights fellowship

Deephaven's **BELLA VISTA** estate on Lake Minnetonka just hit the market for \$15.8 million (!)

Wanna buy **DAVE'S POPCORN & ICE CREAM**, the iconic south Minneapolis snack shack?

DEATH MARCH

Why Minneapolis is the 4th worst city for millennial homebuyers

Jake Woodbridge and Allie Penson planned to marry in July. It was time to get a place of their own.

They were willing to look anywhere from Blaine to Bloomington. But they were also searching in the \$190,000-\$260,000 range, the most competitive in the Twin Cities.

Seventy-six homes would see their tracks. "If something popped up on the market, we would literally have to go look at it in 24 hours or it would be sold," says Jake. Eleven purchase agreements would be written. "If we saw a house we liked, we would literally have to do it that day."

They would lose them all.

Competition meant bidding above the asking price, sometimes by as much as \$15,000, twinned with an offer to pay closing costs. At one south Minneapolis home, their purchase agreement was buried by 50 other bidders.

Owners knew they didn't have to fix much before placing their houses for sale. The money would find them anyway. And it was useless to make a buy contingent upon inspection. The next guy was sure to forego further scrutiny if a deal could be done today.

In the end, they found a small, '50s-era home in Richfield that required \$5,000 over the asking price. It may not be an architectural gem, but it's a fine place to start a life.

Welcome to the Twin Cities real estate market, ranked by Realtor.com as the fourth worst in America for millennials.

The problem is one of basic capitalism. The half-century path of marriage, children, and a move to increasingly distant suburbs has grown entangled with weeds. Young people are marrying later and waiting longer to breed, carrying a deadening fondness for the farmland subdivisions of their parents' generation. The good life to them means the



At one home in south Minneapolis, Allie Penson and Jake Woodbridge's purchase agreement was buried under 50 other bids.

JEFF WOODBRIDGE

city, not 45-minute commutes and dining at an Olive Garden on the service road by the freeway.

That's causing a glut of buyers in the cities that's radiating outward, especially in the most affordable price ranges.

Not surprisingly, realtor.com's worst markets for millennials are San Jose and Seattle, both jammed with high-paid tech workers. But the housing crunch then spreads to Flyover Country, with Salt Lake City finishing third and Omaha, of all places,

landing fifth. All three cities are finding their own brand of prosperity while still offering relatively affordable home prices, making them at least theoretically attainable to first-time buyers.

Jake Woodbridge offers cautious advice for those brave enough to enter the fray.

"I guess you just have to have fun with it and don't let it stress you out," he says of the trial by paperwork. "It's supposed to be fun, but holy crap, I'm glad I'm done."

—PETE KOTZ

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Puppet as Parrot

Erik Paulsen, devoid of spine, outsources beliefs to the internet

This month, GOP Congressman Erik Paulsen's website asked visitors their thoughts on a question vexing Minnesota's most financially available congressman:

"Do you believe President Trump should order Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein to fire Special Counsel Robert Mueller?" Respondents picked from "Yes," "No," or "Unsure/Don't Know."

Paulsen's on the cutting edge of focus-group politics, a burgeoning movement for vulnerable Republicans who have one position—they want to get reelected—and will compromise all others to make it happen.

City Pages has obtained a leaked copy of a set of policy questions that will soon appear on Paulsen's website:

Should President Donald Trump dissolve the F.B.I. and replace it with a secret police that answers only to Jared Kushner?

Yes
No
Unsure/Don't Know

If Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein refuses to fire Robert Mueller, how should President Donald Trump refer to Rosenstein in a tweet?

Deputy Dog
Deep State Rotten Roddy
Little Rosie

Do you believe President Trump was aware of a meeting between his son, his campaign chairman, and Russians

in a building owned by Trump?

Yes
No
Trump Tower is one of the tallest buildings in Manhattan

If President Donald Trump cheated on his wife with an adult film star, what would be an appropriate response?

Apologize to his wife and seek therapy
A threat of violence in a parking garage and \$130,000 oughta take care of it

Do you remember that time Republicans passed a health care plan—one that I championed—that would have kicked at least 10 million Americans off their insurance?

Nope
Sure don't
Dean Phillips was hand-picked by Nancy Pelosi!

How often should a congressman meet with constituents?

Never after 2012
As often as necessary, until both the constituent and his wife have reached the \$5,200 maximum campaign donation for that election cycle

What about these website questions? Isn't this practically a meeting?

What part of Michael Cohen facilitating a secret \$1.6 million payment to a Playboy model to keep quiet about an abortion concerns you most?

The possibility of blackmail by an agent of a foreign government

Abortion should be illegal

That's way too much! Why hire an attorney named "Cohen" if the bribe's still gonna cost a million six?

Should EPA director Scott Pruitt dump fuel from his private jet while it's flying directly above Lake Minnetonka?

Yes
No
Unsure/Don't know

If President Donald Trump calls some immigrants "animals," and says others come from "shithole countries," do you still think we need a border wall with Mexico?

Yes, and Mexico has to pay for it
Yes, and California has to pay for it

No, but Vikings safety Andrew Sendejo must change his name to "Andy Wayzata" and renounce his past affiliation with the sport of soccer

Should Paul Ryan have forced out Rev. Patrick Conroy as House Chaplain for praying the Republican tax bill would bring "benefits... shared by all Americans?"

Yes. Sharing with the poor doesn't sound like the Jesus I know.
"All Americans"? Even Democrats?
My attorneys have advised me not to put references to my taxes in writing.

How has the burdensome medical device tax affected you personally?

My congressman won't stop emailing me about it
Shareholder profits are down slightly, and we held our last quarterly board



Mike Mullen

meeting at a second-rate Napa winery

Did you support the tax law I voted for, which eliminated state and local tax deductions, which really screwed states like Minnesota, even though we already pay more into the federal budget than we get back?

Yes, anything the hosts of Fox & Friends like must be good.

Those other states won't need as much once you finally privatize Medicare.

As CEO of U.S. Bank, I, Andrew Cecere, anticipate making upward of 90 percent of my compensation in stock options, and therefore was more interested in cutting the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent. My donation is in the mail.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey! We at Team Paulsen value your input! Please use the space below to leave additional comments, legal advice, lobbying requests, SuperPAC bank account routing numbers, embarrassing photographs of Bob Mueller, alternate routes to my Capitol office to avoid protesters, or job offers.

mmullen@citypages.com

Follow Mike on Twitter: @mikemullen_

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LUCY HAWTHORNE

HOME SLICE

The frozen pizzas of Minnesota, ranked

BY CITY PAGES STAFF

THIS SPRING, AS PEOPLE throughout the Twin Cities recommitted to buying fresh produce at farmers markets and getting ready for swimsuit season, the staff at City Pages had a very different set of priorities.

The goal? Risk life, limb, and lasting arterial damage to determine the finest Minnesota-based frozen pizza.

The criteria were as follows: Packages had to bear an in-state address and had to be widely, consistently available, meaning we scanned the freezer aisles at Cub, Kowalski's, Lunds, Whole

Foods, and Target. Classic 'za only; pockets, pouches, and French breads are fine, but that's another list entirely. We tracked down 20—which seemed like a nice, round number—in the most basic form we could find. Then, we picked them apart based on that holiest of trinities: crust, sauce, and cheese. Some companies don't sell plain, and since meat and veggies can hide any number of flaws, we've summarized our thoughts on those separately.

We also considered cost (how much will you spend vs. the quality of what you're getting?),

texture (mouthfeel matters), and aesthetic (hey, you eat with the eyes first, whether it's a 10-course tasting menu or a freezer-burnt desperation dinner). And we accounted for an "overall deliciousness" factor, too. How well is it all working together?

We judged, we argued, we sifted through our grease-stained notes and crunched the numbers like so much crust. There were surprise upsets and upset stomachs. But after scraping out the sauce caked from under our fingernails and brushing the crumbs off our laptop keys, we're pleased to

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tchami

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W/ MIKRODOT
THURSDAY, JUNE 7

BAR FLY

\$5/10



PHISO
W/ AL ROSS
SATURDAY, JUNE 9

THE LOFT

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THURSDAY, JUNE 14

BAR FLY

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ARDALAN
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BAR FLY

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NATE MILLUNZ
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RAY VOLPE
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THE LOFT

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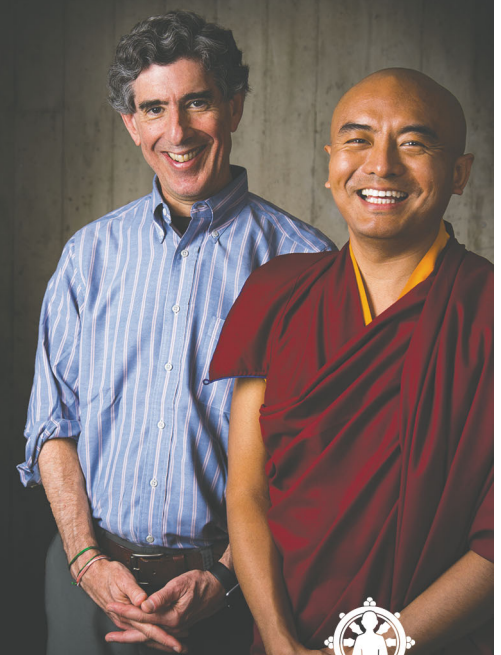
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Roma

LUCY HAWTHORNE

bring you the ultimate power ranking of Minnesota's frozen pizza brands.

14 TOTINO'S PARTY PIZZA

This makes us sad, as we just called northeast Minneapolis-born Totino's Pizza Rolls the Best Drunk Food of 2018. But we're not here to talk rolls right now... and you know what else makes us sad? This misshapen brick of a pizza. The sauce is a gel-like, gooey jam that doesn't taste anything like tomatoes; the cheese is a chalky char that in no way resembles dairy. The only redeeming factor about this little rectangle is its price—you can get one even if you have less than two bucks in your pocket.

"This is like the hot dog of pizzas."

"Yeah. Pizza byproduct."

13 RED BARON CLASSIC CRUST

In a marketing move right out of the Virginia Slims playbook, Red Baron recently pivoted to a new, mom-friendly mascot: The Baroness. In another move out of the Virginia Slims playbook, this pizza actually tastes like it's bad for your health. (Ed. Note: We do not actually think Red Baron is as bad as cigarettes—please don't sue us.) It arrives from the oven with an obviously greasy sheen, smelling like an elementary school cafeteria. Things don't get better in the eatin', as the cheese turns to eraser crumbs in your mouth. And the sauce? Every one of our judges wrote "salt," occasionally in all-caps, with varying numbers of exclamation marks.

"Feels ripped from a school lunch program."

"This is the saltiest, lamest thing outside of my Twitter feed."

12 ROMA ORIGINAL PIZZA

Roma, too, bore a lunchroom-like smell and taste that'll transport you right back to third grade. While less of a sodium bomb, Roma's problem was that the sauce

was on the sugary-sweet side, layered under a barely-there dusting of cheese. It really could have used more of both, if only to obscure a crust that, while crispy on the edges, becomes increasingly like a floury, soggy sheet of Lisa Frank looseleaf paper the closer you get to its center.

"Well, it's... totally a pizza."

"I don't know, actually. Too sweet—not pizza-y enough. Like a dessert I didn't want."

11 PIZZA CORNER

Taking the "bigger is better" approach, Pizza Corner one-ups the competition with 13-inch pies. And you know what they say about pizzas with big dimensions... sometimes they're just okay? The sauce is tart and a little acidic; the cheese browned beautifully and got an almost glazed surface, like a pizza brûlée. But we took issue with the crust, which was thin but somehow dense and flavorless, a communion wafer left out on a humid day.

"Why is the crust so bland?"

"It really is saltine-like. Good pizza for when you have the flu?"

10 CULINARY CIRCLE

A poofy, cornmeal-coated crust is the calling card of this casserole-like pizza. And it works, for the most part, lending welcome texture to the vessel for a delightfully zingy sauce. The cheese was decent, but thinly applied, and since there was a lot of sauce on there (which, again, delightful!), it had a tendency to slide right off with your first bite. Overall, this was fine.

"Dang, look at all the cornmeal on that crust."

"Well, of course. Those are culinary touches."

9 GOURMET PARLOR PIZZA

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Bellatoria
Ultra Thin Crust

LUCY HAWTHORNE

dow of time, it's a sliding glass door), we dug this one. There's something Lunchable-y about the crust, but the sauce is succulent and the cheese—which there's quite a bit of—is good, if a little gummy. Is it gourmet? It's frozen pizza. And one you could certainly work into your too-busy-to-cook weekday or late-night-drunk-eats rotation.

"This is pizza on a tortilla!"

"Quesadilla pizza. Know what? I don't hate it."

8 MUCCI'S AT HOME

We loved the sauce: hearty, herby, a little chunky. Would buy in bulk. The cheese is excellent: chewy, rich, and milky. But we ran into a serious issue here. While the cheese cooked to perfection and the bottom of the crust crisped nicely, there was a jelly-like layer of sog that coated the top of the crust throughout. It was enough to trip us up—a shame, because everything else ruled.

"The rare entry where it's 8's and 9's across the board, but... that crust."

"It's hard to get past that texture."

7 FRESCHETTA

Eating Freschetta was kind of like eating a pizza-flavored loaf of bread... in a good way? It looks like a farmhouse pie, its yeasty, fluffed-up crust heaped with garlicky, herbed cheese that bounces satisfyingly against your teeth. Not a pizza for cracker-crust purists, by any means. But if you're down to sink your teeth into something doughier, this is the one.

"I would eat this in breadstick form."

"The original Puff Daddy?"

6 ALL NATURAL REAL 'ZA

With a name like "All Natural Real 'Za," we were more than ready to roll our eyes at this entrant—but it delivered! A juicy, bright, veggie-forward sauce coats a craggy cornmeal crust and is topped with a springy, toothsome blend of mozzarella and provolone. The ratios are precisely

right, and the fresh flavors don't lead to pizza fatigue, so you can comfortably eat several slices. (Hey, it's cool, it's natural.)

"It's real, and it's 'za, but is it real 'za?"

"Yes! Less processed for the win."

5 CHANTICLEAR

There are no shucks or tricks with Chanticlear—theirs is a damn solid, no-frills bar pizza. A just-this-side-of-sweet sauce is tangy tomato bliss, cutting the richness of the perky cheese covering it. There's great interplay between the toppings and the tortilla-thin crust, which, despite being barely there, has a pleasant, whole-grain essence. Simple, savory deliciousness.

"Does this name sound like an off-brand soda?"

"Or toothpaste?"

"Well, it's classic pizza."

"Really sticks all the landings."

4 BELLATORIA ULTRA THIN CRUST

Bellatoria boasts one of our favorite cheeses, a stringy, stretchy five-cheese blend that's been flecked with—some might say "blasted by"—oregano and parsley and basil. There's a lot of it—both the cheese and the Italian herbs—and they rest on a salty-sweet sauce and a crunchy, flatbread-style crust that's doing exactly what it needs to, which is blending into the background while its toppings steal the show. Well balanced and munchable all around.

"Smothered in herbs, like a catnip potpourri!"

"Oregano? More like oregano... yes."

3 BREW PUB LOTZZA MOTZZA

Given the name, you might think Brew Pub's pizza has "a lot of mozzarella." You would be very right. This thing isn't just blanketed with cheese—that's an all-out down comforter. It's an ocean of mozzarella, a mozzarella stick made flat. And it's incredible. The moist, dense cheese has a perfect pull; the cracker crust is thin but



Lunds & Byerlys

LUCY HAWTHORNE

sturdy and doesn't buckle under the pressure. (No small feat.) This is an excellently executed trash pizza, and what all other trash pizzas should aspire to.

"It's the platonic ideal of junk food."

"Might not like the fourth slice as much—the cheese and grease will get overwhelming—but I want four slices."

2 HEGGIES

One of our esteemed critics described this contestant as "not unlike a savory Gusher"—and that's a compliment. There's a pillowy fluff of mozz over sauce, and they team up to deliver explosive little bursts of flavor with every bite. Browned, crispy edges nestle up next to paler, squishier pieces; a slice of either is equally satisfying. It looks "real," and it tastes fresh. The ingredients are perfectly proportioned. A quintessential freezer pizza.

"Like a 2-D, high-end pizza roll. It pops."

"Bar food nirvana."

1 KOWALSKI'S MARKET

This is it. This is the one. Sharp cheddar is married with mellow mozzarella and parmesan, making for layers of flavor and richness. You'll see actual tomato seeds peeking through the vibrant sauce, which has enough acidity to balance out the fat. We ate Kowalski's entry dead last on our first day of marathon eating, when we didn't yet know how to pace ourselves properly. Overstuffed bordering on diabetic shock as we were, we still went back for seconds. It's that outstanding.

"Tasty ingredients, all working together well."

"This is like the pizza emoji. Perfection."

LOVE ON TOP

SOME MUSINGS ON THE NOT-PLAIN PIZZAS, IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER...

Levi Foods

Artichoke and Tomato

Yes, this tastes like "health pizza," but it can be nice to feel like you're getting real food with actual nutrients from the freezer. And the seasoned, wheaty crust was among the only ones that really stood out.

Lunds & Byerlys

Capicola Ham & Pepperoni

This was confusing! We liked the spice heat. We liked the cheese. But this pie looked really weird. Where was the sauce? There was, like, no sauce. The pepperoni was yellowed?

The ham was... nice? We're upset!

Green Mill

Pepperoni

Green Mill does make a plain pizza, but we couldn't track it down after placing calls to a bunch of local grocers. The pepperoni version comes with tons of meaty discs on there—we're talking doubled-up levels—although they don't get too crispy under a thick pile of cheese.

7th Avenue

Pepperoni

The sauce was good, the cheese was good, the pepperonis were good. The damp crust was something of a texture-less flop. Nothing stood out, but it was totally passable.

Davanni's Tavern-Style

Pepperoni

Davanni's classic red sauce was well seasoned and noticeably excellent, and the 'ronis crisped and curled beautifully atop their softy, cheesy bed.

This is a stellar drunk pizza, for sure.

Wicked Pizza Devil's Delight

Spicy 3-Meat Pizza

This is one meaty gut-punch of a pie—but is it wicked? Well, there are a lot of dead animals on there. And they're very tasty, the Italian sausage especially. The only weird thing? It wasn't even spicy by Minnesota standards.



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FOOD



THE HERBIVOROUS BUTCHER

MINNEAPOLIS IS THE 4TH MOST VEGAN-FRIENDLY CITY IN AMERICA, SAYS PETA

BY EMILY CASSEL

When you think “vegan dining destination,” no doubt you’re picturing such effortlessly hip, eclectic millennial meccas as Los Angeles, New York, Portland, and... Omaha?

Last week, PETA released its 2018 ranking of the “Top 10 Vegan-Friendly Cities” in the U.S. And those are all on there—Nebraska’s biggest city included.

Minneapolis holds down the No. 4 spot on the animal rights group’s annual list, the first time we’ve made it in more than a decade. But the Midwest in general has a strong showing. NYC is the only Northeast city to crack the top 10; meanwhile, in addition to Minneapolis and Omaha, Detroit, Kansas City, and Cleveland all make the cut.

Why is Minneapolis so veg-friendly? PETA mostly gives it up for vegan deli and sandwich shop the Herbivorous Butcher, whose meatless meats are steadily snagging a spot on menus throughout the Twin Cities.

But that’s not all: “From the Korean BBQ ribs at The Herbivorous Butcher to the Mexicali Not-Dogs at Muddy Waters Bar & Eatery, Minneapolis has no twin when it comes to hearty vegan dining,” PETA executive vice president Tracy Reiman said in a statement. (Classic St. Paul dig!) PETA also shouts out the mock duck at the MSP airport’s Republic restaurant, Ginger Hop’s tempeh Sloppy Joes, and the “delectable” vegan crêpes at Crepe and Spoon.

And St. Paul’s all-vegan junk-food gem J. Selby’s does get a shout-out as well... apparently it just wasn’t enough to bump Kansas City from the list.

Better luck next year!

The full top 10:

1. Los Angeles, California
2. New York City, New York
3. San Francisco, California
4. Minneapolis, Minnesota
5. Portland, Oregon
6. Detroit, Michigan
7. Cleveland, Ohio
8. Omaha, Nebraska
9. Miami, Florida
10. Kansas City, Missouri



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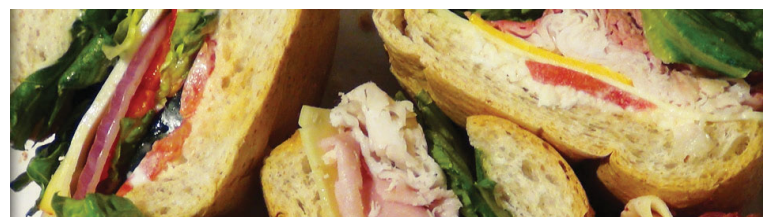
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A LIST

FRIDAY Gaming and ramen at Animinneapolis **P. 17**

SATURDAY Memory Lanes' epic block party **P. 20**

SUNDAY Barbecue with Surly at Slay Day **P. 21**

WEDNESDAY 5.23

GAMES

SKYLINE MINI GOLF

WALKER ART CENTER

The Walker Art Center is once again hosting Skyline Mini Golf, a 10-hole course crafted by artists and situated on the museum's rooftop terrace. Each hole this year is a returning favorite, including the hot-dog-themed Let's Be Frank, the Andy Warhol-inspired Thrillo-Brillo, and the tribute to our state, Tale of Twin Cities. Don't be fooled by the humorous layout; the holes are deceptively complex works of engineering. Golfers with lamentably over-par averages can content themselves with the sweeping panorama of the Minneapolis skyline. And should our fickle Midwestern weather take a turn for the worse, shelter is readily available within the Walker, providing golfers with a creatively inspired clubhouse. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Sundays; 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursdays; 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. \$10; \$8 members and kids ages 7 to 18; free for ages 6 and under with a paid adult. 725 Vineland Place, Minneapolis; 612-375-7600. **Through September 2 —BRAD RICHASON**

COMEDY

MARTHA KELLY

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Comedian and actress Martha Kelly, best known for her role as Martha Brooks on *Baskets*, is right where she wants to be. "I did the comedy club in Madison, Wisconsin, right before Easter," she recalls, "and there were a lot of people there because of *Baskets* for sure. But it's not like I get recognized walking around. It's a nice spot to be in. It's lucky having



Black Magik Woman returns with cheeky art celebrating women.

CONNIE MROTEK

people who want to come out and see you and not just come to the club because they want a night out. My life isn't that different. I live in Austin and just do my day-to-day stuff." She travels back and forth to L.A. because of the show, but also because she's from there originally and still has family in SoCal. "I moved to Austin in 2000, basically to party," she admits. "But even after I quit drinking I found I still loved Austin. It's more enjoyable than Los Angeles for sure." Onstage she talks about her life, as well as goofy observations on the news and current events. The elephant in the room, however, isn't often addressed. "Sometimes

I'll mention what a horrible mess Trump is, but most of the time I don't because I don't find it funny. I find it sad and scary." 18+. 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday; 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$15-\$18. 708 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-338-6393.

Through Saturday —P.F. WILSON

THURSDAY 5.24

FASHION

BLACK MAGIK WOMAN IV

GAMUT GALLERY

Now in its fourth year, Black Magik Woman is an art and fashion event that celebrates queerness, femininity, and non-binary awesomeness through

collaboratively created images and positivity. The show brings together designers, photographers, and models, all working to move past tired generalizations and stereotypes toward a new future. This year, the collaborative teams are taking on the social issues that women and non-binary folks face today—not just here in the Twin Cities, but globally. The opening-night party includes musical guests DJs Rowsheen and Babyghost. Come see some powerful, beautiful images celebrating femme and non-binary bodies, mingle with the artists who created the pieces, and enjoy an evening that celebrates women without denigrating men. The reception is at 7 p.m. (6 p.m. VIP) on Thursday, May 24. Free; \$33.72 opening reception. 717 S. 10th St., Minneapolis; 612-367-4327. **Through June 21 —SHEILA REGAN**

COMEDY

CHRIS FRANJOLA

RICK BRONSON'S HOUSE OF COMEDY

"I wasn't surprised Trump won," standup Chris Franjola admits. "I was traveling across the country, and

saw it happening. I wasn't in some Hollywood bubble. I saw it and thought, 'This isn't going to end well.'" Politics doesn't factor much into his act, though, as he's learned to avoid it. "I tell people right away, 'Don't worry I'm not going to get political.'" He does, however, like where his career has been headed. "I'm having more fun doing standup than I ever have," he says. "I'm on the road doing a lot of shows. It's been great." His set is still mostly about his personal life, but it's become even more story-driven. 16+. 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 9:45 p.m. Friday; 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday; 9:30 p.m. Saturday. \$17.50-\$26.95. 408 E. Broadway, Mall

FRIDAY 5.25

FASHION

BLACK FASHION WEEK MN

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

This Friday, Black Fashion Week MN launches with three events intended to showcase POC designers and creatives, both up-and-coming and established. Things kick off at Moxy Minneapolis Uptown Hotel (1121 W. Lake St., Minneapolis) with a party from 7 to 11 p.m. featuring two local designers. Jaqueline Addison (Akuagabby) creates bold pieces—think jewel tones and the occasional polka dot—that range from princessy formalwear to sexy date-night looks. Meanwhile, Houston White (Black Excellence) designs statement tees and polished suits and jackets. I Am Not My Hair is on Wednesday, May 30, at Monkon Sushi and Lounge Bar (964 University Ave., St. Paul) from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Here you'll find makers of natural hair products, makeup samples, and jewelry from Robyne Robinson. Things conclude Saturday, June 2, at the Rasta Wear Fashion Affair at Pimento Kitchen (2524 Nicollet Ave. S., Minneapolis) with a fashion show that will feature work from Ayo-Ma's Designs, Gladhouse, Soulspeak Expressions, and Ruva Africwear. The party starts at 7 p.m. Find more info at www.blackfashionweekmn.com.

Through June 2 —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

FESTIVAL

ANIMINNEAPOLIS

HYATT REGENCY

Fans of Japanese pop culture will be coming together once again in downtown Minneapolis for three days of bonding and fun. There will be panel talks covering major fandom staples, including Lolita fashion, video games, and shows like *Pokemon*, *Dragon Ball Z*, and *Yu-Gi-Oh*. Check out vendors selling unique wares, be tended to at the Maid Cafe, sing some karaoke, and stop by the arcade for some gaming (table-top games will be played, too). Anime movies will stream all weekend, and live music will add to the fun. As always, there will be free soda and ramen for everyone. For a complete schedule, visit animinneapolis.com. Noon to 1 a.m. Friday; 10 a.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. \$40 single day; weekend packages available. 1300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis. **Through Sunday —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

SPORTS

AMERICAN NINJA WARRIOR

U.S. BANK STADIUM

Pro athletes command greater paychecks and fame, but there's something admirable about the competitors who brave the obstacle courses of *American Ninja Warrior*. The show features an egalitarian field of everyday people (albeit physically chiseled and exceeding well trained),

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20 ►

ART/GALLERY

**IMMERSION:
ICELAND RESIDENCY**

LIGHT GREY ART LAB

The beauty of natural landscapes, folktales, and travel are celebrated in four gallery shows now on view at Light Grey Art Lab. Stark, harsh, and magical are just a few interpretations made by over 50 artists in residency in Iceland for "Immersion." The collection features a huge variety of works from painters, video game designers, and illustrators. There's humor, awe, and even a bit of food photography. Meanwhile, Julia Kuo and Emily Dove have teamed up for a show of illustrations inspired by bioluminescence, which they experienced during a residency in Canada's Banff National Park. U.K.-based artist Chloe Giordano will be sharing beautiful embroidery pieces honoring woodland animals and the importance of preserving the habitat they call home. Finally, Junyi Wu and Jon Lau have collaborated to create gorgeous works exploring traditions and mythologies spanning cultures. There will be an opening reception for all four shows on Friday, May 25, from 7 to 10 p.m. 118 E. 26th St., Ste. 101, Minneapolis; 612-239-2047. **Through June 30**

—JESSICA ARMBRUSTER



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JUN
06

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JUN
15

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JUN
16

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JUN
25

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JUN
29

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JUL
07

THE ENGLISH BEAT

JUL
08

STS9
WITH WHITE CLIFFS

JUL
20

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WITH ALI SHAHEED MUHAMMAD

JUL
29

MELVINS

SEP
08

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WITH ADELITA'S WAY,
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SEP
14

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- CITY PAGES 2018

JUN
08

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JUN
09

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23

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JUN
30

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JUL
06

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JUL
13

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JUL
14

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AUG
03

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SEP
05

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SEP
17

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SEP
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JUN
29

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W/ JOSHUA HEDLEY

JUL
25

MY BLOODY VALENTINE

AUG
01

BEN HARPER & CHARLIE MUSSELWHITE

AUG
11

PUNCH BROTHERS
W/ MADISON CUNNINGHAM

SEP
06

NEKO CASE
W/ THAO (of THE GET DOWN STAY DOWN)

SEP
21

LEON BRIDGES
W/ KHRUANGBIN
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W/ JOSHUA HEDLEY

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- CITY PAGES 2018

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 23

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ALBUM RELEASE SHOW
W/ HARPER'S JAR, IN LIEU, MARMALADE
FRIDAY, MAY 25

RED WANTING BLUE
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W/ LIZ BRASHER, RYAN TRASTER BAND
SATURDAY, MAY 26

PILLORIAN
W/ ASHBRINGER, ULKUM
SUNDAY, MAY 27

MARY OCHER
W/ IN/VIA, STOLYETTE
MONDAY, MAY 28

MAPS & ATLASES
W/ YANA
TUESDAY, MAY 29

THE LIGHTHOUSE AND THE WHALER
W/ VITA AND THE WOOLF, GUYTANO
WEDNESDAY, MAY 30

BRUNO MAJOR
THURSDAY, MAY 31

UP NEXT TURF CLUB

QUINTRONICS
WEATHER WARLOCK
W/ KPT, JEREMY YLIVISAKER
WEDNESDAY, MAY 23

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THURSDAY, MAY 24

THEM EVILS
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THE MODERN ERA
FRIDAY, MAY 25

KING TUFF
W/ CUT WORMS, SASAMI
SATURDAY, MAY 26

MATT COSTA
W/ ELIZABETH AND THE CATAPULT
WEDNESDAY, MAY 30

AMERICAN AQUARIUM
'THINGS CHANGE' TOUR
W/ CORY BRANAN
THURSDAY, MAY 31

FIELD REPORT
W/ ALEX SCHAAF
SATURDAY, JUNE 2

PARKER MILLSAP
W/ TRAVIS LINVILLE
SUNDAY, JUNE 3

UP NEXT OTHER VENUES

PARQUET COURTS
W/ GOAT GIRL
FINE LINE
THURSDAY, MAY 31

CRACKER
W/ DAVID LOWERY (SOLO ACOUSTIC)
FINE LINE
SATURDAY, JUNE 16

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W/ PAUL CHARCHIAN OF KFAN
THE CEDAR
THURSDAY, JUNE 21

HAR MAR SUPERSTAR
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FITZGERALD THEATER
SATURDAY, JUNE 23

IYA TERRA
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W/ INDUBIOUS
AMSTERDAM BAR & HALL
THURSDAY, JUNE 28

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A-LIST



GETTY IMAGES

Animinneapolis focuses on Japanese gaming, anime, and culture.

CONTINUED FROM FRIDAY ►

running a gauntlet of progressively intimidating challenges for the purpose of being declared a champion. The popular offshoot of Japanese series *Sasuke*, *American Ninja Warrior* takes place throughout the country, allowing ambitious competitors the chance to secure a place in the Las Vegas national finals. While this is the first time a qualifying round has been held in Minneapolis, the vast U.S. Bank Stadium should provide ample space for the complex obstacle setup. While the specifics of each course are a closely guarded secret, fans of the televised program can anticipate acrobatic contraptions geared to pitch fatigued competitors into the net—or pool—below. Vicarious thrills abound. Filming times vary; all tickets must be requested in advance through the website, on-camera-audiences.com. 12+. Free. 401 Chicago Ave., Minneapolis; 612-777-8700.

Through Saturday —BRAD RICHASON

SATURDAY 5.26

FESTIVAL

MEMORY LANES BLOCK PARTY

MEMORY LANES

Memory Lanes' Memorial Day weekend block party is back with two days packed with music on indoor and outdoor stages. The lineup includes kids' fare (Koo Koo Kanga Roo), surf rock (Black Widows, BLAHA), heavy metal (Gay Witch Abortion), DJ sets (Babyghost), punk rock (the

Spits), and an Afro-Caribbean group (Malamanya). A few food trucks and a grill station will provide sustenance between beers and sets. All ages; 21+ after 10 p.m. 3 p.m. to 2 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. \$5 per day; free after 10 p.m. 2520 26th Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-721-6211. **Through Sunday —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

THEATER

LADY DAY AT EMERSON'S BAR AND GRILL

JUNGLE THEATER

Billie Holiday's arduous life stands as a sobering contrast to her sublime music. This paradox is poignantly explored by playwright Lanie Robertson in *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*. The play recreates one of the final performances of the 44-year-old singer. Through an evocative sampling of iconic songs (including "Strange Fruit," "God Bless the Child," and "When a Man Loves a Woman"), Holiday confides in the audience with personal accounts of the record industry's predatory practices, the abject racism she endured on the road, a harrowing succession of abusive relationships, and the crippling addictions that would ultimately lead to her tragic death. Depicting such a complex figure requires exceptional insight, an empathetic point Jungle Theater has ensured with the casting of Thomasina Petrus. A Twin Cities native renowned for her indelible talents, Petrus is both an acclaimed actor and a skilled jazz vocalist, having

even recorded her own Holiday tribute album, *If Only... Billie Unsung*. Under the direction of Marion McClinton and supported by a live rhythm trio, this production offers a heartfelt reminder that the most sorrowful experiences can inspire the most beautiful music. The show is in previews May 23-24, 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays; 2 p.m. Sundays starting June 3. \$37-\$47. 2951 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-822-7063.

Through June 24 —BRAD RICHASON

FILM

CINEMA IN THE CEMETERY: THE GENERAL

PIONEERS AND SOLDIERS CEMETERY

After the horrendous winter we had, the joy of outdoor activities almost feels too wonderful to be possible. Case in point: spring and summer movies. Yes, you can leave your home and hang out in a beautiful place and watch a film. One place to do so is at the historic Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery, which has an added dose of creepiness and beauty to enhance your movie-watching experience. Hosted by Trylon Cinema and the Friends of the Pioneers and Soldiers' Cemetery, the series this week will be screening Buster Keaton's *The General*, which Orson Welles once described as "the greatest film ever made." It's a silent work that's funny and action-packed, taking place during the Civil War. The screening will be accompanied by local old-timey music group Dreamland Faces. 8:45 p.m. (dusk). \$10. 2945 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-226-2122. —**SHEILA REGAN**

FOOD

4TH ANNUAL CRAWFISH BOIL

BENT BREWSTILLERY

Three-day weekends are all about being lazy and enjoying good food.

This Saturday, Bent Brewstillery will offer a feast to patrons looking for some Cajun-style eats. For the event, now in its fourth year, Bent will be boiling hundreds of pounds of live crawfish along with corn, potatoes, and, perhaps most importantly, spice. Chicken and sausage jambalaya will also be on the menu, as will hot dogs. A plate and a pint goes for \$15 (while supplies last). The party will also include face-painting, snow cones, a photo booth, and the featured cocktail of the day, the Minnesota Hurricane, made with StormBringer, a barrel-aged spiced rum. Kids and pups are welcome. All ages. Noon to 10 p.m. Free. 1744 Terrace Dr., Roseville; 844-879-2368. —**JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

SUNDAY 5.27

BEER

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Get ready for your Memorial Day barbecue by sampling a brand-new summer offering from Surly: HeatSlayer Kölsch. The German-inspired beer is as flavorful as any Surly brew, but its lighter quality means it's well-suited for summer day drinking. On Slay Day, a \$30 ticket gets attendees all the HeatSlayer they care to drink, and all the grilled foods (meant to be paired with the new beer) that they can eat. The menu features brats, veggie sausages from Herbivorous Butcher, and pretzels. While HeatSlayer is the featured beer, interested imbibers can wander inside the climate-controlled beer hall for access to Surly's many other options (at regular taproom price). There will also be yard games and live music outside. 1 to 5 p.m. \$30 for 21+; \$12 for under 18. 520 Malcolm Ave. SE, Minneapolis; 763-535-3330. —**LOREN GREEN**

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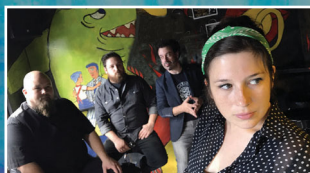
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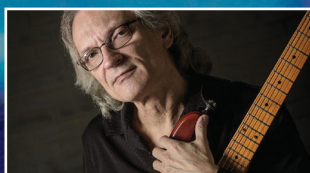
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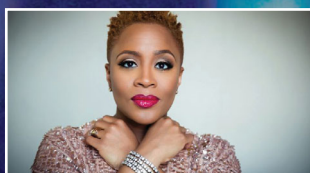
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JUNE 11



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KENNY GARRETT
JUNE 19



GHOST-NOTE
JUNE 20



JEFFREY FOUCAULT
WITH DUSTY HEART
JUNE 21

4 NIGHTS

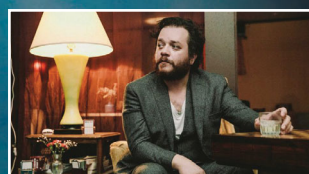
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SOLO: A STAR WARS STORY

(And a generic and unoriginal action flick)



Alden Ehrenreich

COURTESY OF WALT DISNEY PICTURES

BY TONY LIBERA

It never bodes well for a movie when the studio fires its director mid-shoot. The goal is to right the ship. But more often than not, the final product ends up being mediocre at best.

Such is the case of *Solo: A Star Wars Story*, which saw directors Phil Lord and Christopher Miller (*The Lego Movie*, *21 Jump Street*) replaced by Ron Howard after a good chunk of filming. To somebody's credit—though it's hard to say whose—*Solo* avoids being a total train wreck. That said, it does play out as a generic action flick. Given this is a pretty transparent cash grab by Disney, I wonder if it really matters.

Solo takes place somewhere between the events of *Episode III: Revenge of the Sith* and *Rogue One*. We meet a youngish Han (Alden Ehrenreich) on the planet Corellia, where he and a bunch of other street rats do the bidding of the evil Lady Proxima (Linda Hunt) in an effort to survive.

Han seeks a better life among the stars, so when he sees a dicey opportunity to get himself and girlfriend Qi'ra (Emilia Clarke) off-world, he takes it. What follows is a fairly straightforward run through Han Solo's greatest hits. There's a surprise or two, but as for the broader *Star Wars* mythology, we don't get much value. While new information is presented, it's nothing that really fleshes out the character in any meaningful way.

By illuminating his backstory like this, the movie loses a lot of the intrigue that made Han Solo such a cool character. It's like revealing the secret behind a magic trick. The mystery is gone.

What's more interesting, forever wondering how Han made the Kessel Run in less than 12 parsecs or just showing us in the context of a bland prequel?

That's a huge problem, because *Solo* is a movie where the story is almost entirely predicated on nods and call-forwards. References to the original trilogy are really just beaten into the viewer, and performed with such hammy glee that

SOLO: A STARS WARS STORY

directed by Ron Howard
opens May 24, area theaters

it's almost like the actors are winking at the screen.

New stuff is executed so poorly that it's comical. In an early scene we discover the meaning of Han's last name, and its staleness lays the foundation for what's to come. You'll know it when you hear it.

A big part of the blame here rests on the shoulders of father-and-son screenwriting duo Lawrence and Jonathan Kasdan. The senior Kasdan is responsible for some great work, including *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. But the writing here and in *The Force Awakens*, which Lawrence co-wrote, feels soulless and lacking. It's hard to say if that's truly his fault or if Disney is pushing a derivative narrative.

Either way, the result is the same. *Solo* is a movie we did not need. Luckily, it's easy to forget.

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MAIN STAGE

THURSDAY, MAY 24

CYCLES 4:00PM
 SPACE MONKEY MAFIA 6:00PM
 KANSER 7:15PM
 KITCHEN DWELLERS 8:30PM

ARTIST AT LARGE:
 STEVE MCCORMICK
 & JOE MARCINEK

HARMONY PUB
 10:00PM - GRASS FED MULE
 ACOUSTIC JAM

FRIDAY, MAY 25

ARMCHAIR BOOGIE 12:00PM
 SAMANTHA FISH 3:30PM

JON CLEARY TRIO 7:30PM
 LEFTOVER SALMON 10:30PM

1:30PM GRASS FED MULE
 5:00PM BLACK RIVER REVUE
 6:00PM WHITE IRON BAND
 9:00PM GORY WONG & THE GREEN SCREEN BAND
 W/ ANTWAUN STANLEY OF VULPECK

SATURDAY, MAY 26

SHRED SHED
 10:00PM - ANNIE FRAZIER
 ACOUSTIC BLOODY MARY PARTY

MIDNIGHT NORTH 3:30PM
 TWIDDLE 6:00PM
 PHIL LESH & TERRAPIN FAMILY BAND 9:00PM

12:00PM THE HUMAN ELEMENT
 12:45PM PAT LENERTZ BAND
 2:00PM THE BROTHERS ALLMANAC
 A MIDWEST TRIBUTE TO THE ALLMAN BROTHERS
 5:00PM CLOUSER/MEDESKI/BATES
 7:30PM KIND COUNTRY

SUNDAY, MAY 27

PAT FERGUSON 12:00PM
 AMY HELM 2:30PM
 USEFUL JENKINS 5:30PM
 PERFORMS "FESTIVAL EXPRESS"

KELLER WILLIAMS 8:00PM
 KELLER & THE KEELS
 THE BIG WU 11:30PM

1:00PM THE LAST REVEL
 4:00PM DEAD LARRY
 7:00PM CORAL CREEK
 10:00PM FROGLEG

SHRED SHED
 1:00PM - MILES OVER MOUNTAINS
 2:00PM - COMMON GROUND COMPANY

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AFTER THE IVEYS

Four Humors seeks new ways to honor the local theater scene



Tracie Bennett
at the Iveys

KURT MOSES PHOTOGRAPHY

BY JAY GABLER

“Can you talk a little bit more about what ‘funky and fun’ means to you?”

Jason Ballweber was standing in a Seward arts studio, surrounded by a couple dozen actors, directors, writers, and other members of the local theater community. It was the second of two community conversations convened by his company Four Humors, which has declared plans to launch a new theater awards ceremony on September 24.

That’s a firm date, and right now it’s one of the only things organizers know for certain about the awards. Currently their sole source of funding is an Indiegogo campaign where interested parties can buy tickets. The number of tickets sold will determine the venue size, and they’ll figure the rest out as they go.

“This is not the Iveys, and I mean that in a good way,” Ballweber said. “We’re going to make a new thing that celebrates Minnesota theater.”

In February it was announced that the Ivey Awards, which recognized achievements in metro-area professional theater, were ending due to funding challenges. The glittery annual ceremony at the State Theatre became a sellout in recent years, making the Iveys America’s best-attended theater awards aside from the Tonys.

Corporate sponsors provided much of the Iveys’ funding, while the incipient

Minnesota Theater Awards organization is decidedly grassroots. At the community conversation, Ballweber said that Four Humors was contemplating a “smaller, fun, silly, ridiculous” alternative to the Iveys even before those awards were discontinued.

Now that it’s officially taken up the mantle, Four Humors faces the challenge of crafting an event that will serve the Iveys’ celebratory function while also meeting the company’s goals of being more accessible and more inclusive, including of Minnesota productions from outside the metro area.

Several attendees at the meeting called for a more transparent selection process than the Iveys used. Extensive discussion revolved around how the awards can become more broadly based than the Iveys without forcing, for example, Fringe shows to compete against Guthrie-level productions. A representative from the Minnesota Theater Alliance pointed out that the state encompasses over 450 theater companies; most are outside the metro, and fewer than a hundred were eligible for Ivey consideration.

For now, Ballweber is adamant that some kind of theater celebration event will happen on September 24, and it will almost certainly involve the presentation of one or more awards. Beyond that, things are likely to evolve.

Asked whether he had any words of wisdom for the Minnesota Theater Awards organizers, Iveys founder Scott Mayer chuckled and responded concisely, “It’s more work than you think.”

★★★★ 10TH ANNUAL! ★★★★★

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Describe your style:

Dynamic, because it changes constantly.

Who do you dress to impress?

I don't dress to impress anyone. If anything, I dress to challenge myself.

Where do you get styling inspiration?

My West African and Caribbean culture, Korean fashion, and Rihanna.



COOPER FELIPE
18, SERVER

What are you wearing?

Aviators from Ragstock, self-customized top from H&M, jumpsuit from Ragstock, Fenty x PUMA Collab creepers, authentic Louis Vuitton bag from Savers.

Describe your style:

Retro meets the future.

Who do you dress to impress?

My style communicates to the world about who I am and what I stand for.

Where do you get styling inspiration?

Eccentric and bold personalities like Lady Gaga, RuPaul, David Bowie, and supermodels.



JOSEPHINE REID
26, FREELANCER

What are you wearing?

Jumper and bag from Shein.com, blouse from Lula Vintage, gloves from Amazon, shoes from Nordstrom.

Describe your style:

Victorian-era influence with slices of '60s flair and sleek futurism.

Who do you dress to impress?

I just don't feel like myself without my usual statement attire. So, I guess you can say myself!

Where do you get styling inspiration?

Runway shows on YouTube and Instagram accounts like @artgarments.

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Martha Kelly

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GO WEST

Why are so many Minnesota musicians moving to Los Angeles?

BY JERARD FAGERBERG

It took more than a year of saving, two weeks in an Airbnb, and five days in a rented trailer driven by two supportive parents. But the end of the journey was a dream realized: Tess Weinberg and Chris White moved into their new apartment in Echo Park, Los Angeles.

Native Minneapolitans, Weinberg and White were twice-successful local musicians, first with now-defunct goth-rockers Murder Shoes, more recently as gloom-pop duo No Kim. They'd reached an enviable plateau, with enough name recognition, connections, and resources to build a comfortable, long-term career in the Twin Cities. But three weeks after they dropped the first No Kim LP, they sold half their furniture and fled west.

"There's such great Midwest momentum towards, 'Get a house! Get a dog!,' but I don't feel ready for that," Weinberg says. "I wanted to feel scared again. I wanted that to happen for our music, too."

"We're in survival mode for sure," White adds, with a glint of determination. "But it feels pretty good."

There's nothing new about local music luminaries moving out to Los Angeles: Prince famously lived there for much of the '00s. But more recently, the exodus has grown in numbers, as homegrown hitmakers like Caroline Smith, Tickle Torture, and Howler have heeded the call. So what does Los Angeles offer young musicians that the Twin Cities can't?

"Minneapolis has a smaller, more centralized community," says former Howler frontman Jordan Gatesmith. "That means the focus is more on certain individuals or certain groups. Out here, you can do your own thing and not worry about your peers too much."

Gatesmith, who now plays with the band Wellness, has lived in L.A. since 2015. Though he disavows the notion that there's a glass ceiling for artists based in Minnesota—Howler secured international praise and a deal with London's Rough Trade when Gatesmith was only 20—he knew L.A. was the next best step for him.



Tess Weinberg
and Chris White
of No Kim

TESS WEINBERG

On Howler's various tours through California, Gatesmith had seen how the arts scene there propagates in small, passionate cloisters, and, with the strong encouragement of his L.A.-based publisher, he set aside his aesthetic qualms ("I always thought [Los Angeles] was kinda dirty," he says) and made the move. Now he spends all his time making music—not only with Wellness but also with former Morrissey songwriting partner Alain Whyte.

"I really learned to love this city a lot," Gatesmith says. "Words like 'career,' I don't really know what that means, but it's been a positive move for my life."

Ask Minnesota expats why they moved to L.A. and one of the first words you'll hear is "infrastructure." It's the kind of vague jargon that makes life in Los Angeles seem unquestionably important. But what does infrastructure mean when it comes to living your life as a working musician?

Tiny Deaths songwriter Claire de Lune, 10 years a Minnesotan and a Californian for the last nine months, puts it plainly: "In Iowa, their export is corn. In L.A., it's entertainment."

In Los Angeles, money doesn't just talk—it sings. Where you might see billboards for auto dealerships or church radio in Minnesota, in L.A. it's new albums and DJ sets. In the Twin Cities you might have to moonlight as a bartender to pay for studio time, but Los Angeles has such a need for musicians that you can pay rent by working as session player.

De Lune first caught a glimpse of the opportunities the biz presented when she started contracting Tiny Deaths songs for TV ad placement. Soon, she was selling pop songs on spec.

"I've never been interested in writing bubblegum pop songs for myself," she says. "I did a little bit of songwriting with some of my friends from L.A. [while I was] in Minneapolis, but there's just a whole industry here. It's hard to break in here, but it's almost impossible to break into from far away."

Brooklyn Park rapper Finding Novyon was on his way to being Minnesota's next homegrown hip-hop star after finishing sixth in 2016's Picked to Click competition and claiming Best Hip-Hop Verse in the following year's Best of the Twin Cities. In 2016, he dropped the downright spartan mixtape *Believe in MPLS*, a collaboration with L.A. producer J.KELR. Less than a year later, he bought a one-way ticket to LAX.

"I love Minnesota, but I felt like, when I was there the last couple months, I was so unmotivated, so over everything," Novyon says. "I was getting depressed in the winter, and that was a big burden on my emotions, and it stifled my creativity."

Novyon originally planned to make the move with So Cold Records labelmates Dreli and Allan Kingdom. These were among the most talented, exciting young performers to emerge from Minnesota since GRRRL PRYTY, and they wanted to



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test their mass appeal together. But when their 2017 national tour was canceled after only a few dates, those designs fell apart. Drelli and Kingdom took off for California together, leaving Novyon to find his own way.

Novyon scored a sublet in a five-bedroom apartment before finding a smaller place in North Hollywood. He got a management company and booking agents to help him get local shows and make sure he gets a fair takeaway. He caught on with fellow Minneapolis-at-large Angelo Bombay, who set him up with a gig running sessions at a friend's Hollywood studio.

"It's been really motivating and a really dope experience for me," he says. "Right now, it feels like when I was just first coming up, when I was opening up for Mike the Martyr and Metasota and meeting all the older people who knew the scene and I looked up to."

Sunshine and legal marijuana certainly help, but the collectivist energy in Los Angeles has also rejuvenated the once-dejected Novyon. He's a man transformed, something that cannot be ignored on his beachy, affable new single "What's Best."

"Here, not as many people know what I've done, so it's just easier for me to create," Novyon says. "I find myself being more expressive and more transparent. I can really take a step back and look at things from a different angle."

Novyon hits on the thread that unites all Minnesota-born musicians living in L.A. Yes, the city may be a gateway to 9-5-ing your passions, but more than that, it's an escape. No one musician I spoke with expressed a desire to stay in Los Angeles forever, and most had designs on an eventual Minneapolis return. But universally, they were thankful for something new.

"I had this feeling of, 'If we don't get out now, maybe we never will,'" Weinberg says. "I felt like, if I died in Minneapolis never having left, well, that'd be sad." **EP**

CRITICS' PICKS

NIGHT MOVES

FIRST AVENUE, FRIDAY 5.25

Night Moves established their rightful place in the Minneapolis indie-rock scene with the bursting, gossamer psych-country of 2012's *Colored Emotions*. The band's now-signature song, the sky-ing, Band of Horses-style "Carl Sagan," opened 2016's John Angello-produced *Pennied Days*, and gave its name to the 2017 EP that followed. This is their first show headlining the Mainroom in two years. With Anonymous Choir, Wellness, and Shilpa Ray. 18+. 7 p.m. \$13/\$15. 701 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388.

—MICHAEL MADDEN

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6/23 - THE BELFAST COWBOYS - Early Start - 2 Fat Sets
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>> By Rob Breznysy

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19): The Aries poet Anna Kamie'nksa described the process of writing as akin to "the backbreaking work of hacking a footpath, as in a coal mine: in total darkness, beneath the earth." Whether or not you're a writer, I'm guessing that your life might have felt like that recently. Your progress has been slow and the mood has been dense and the light has been dim. That's the tough news. The good news is that I suspect you will soon be blessed with flashes of illumination and a semi-divine intervention or two. After that, your work will proceed with more ease. The mood will be softer and brighter.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Do you know what you are worth? Have you compiled a realistic assessment of your talents, powers, and capacities? Not what your friends and enemies think you're worth, nor the authority figures you deal with, nor the bad listeners who act like they've figured out the game of life. When I ask you if you have an objective understanding of your real value, Taurus, I'm not referring to what your illusions or fears or wishes might tell you. I'm talking about an honest, accurate appraisal of the gifts you have to offer the world. If you do indeed possess this insight, hallelujah and congratulations! If you don't, the coming weeks will be an excellent time to work on getting it.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Now is a favorable time to worship at the shrine of your own intuition. It's a ripe moment to boost your faith in your intuition's wild and holy powers. To an extraordinary degree, you can harness this alternate mode of intelligence to gather insights that are beyond the power of your rational mind to access by itself. So be bold about calling on your gut wisdom, Gemini. Use it to track down the tricky, elusive truths that have previously been unavailable to you.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22): "A poem is never finished; it is only abandoned," wrote poet W. H. Auden, paraphrasing poet Paul Valéry. I think the same can be said about many other kinds of work. We may wish we could continue tinkering and refining forever so as to bring a beloved project to a state of absolute perfection. But what's more likely is that it will always fall at least a bit short of that ideal. It will never be totally polished and complete to our satisfaction. And we've got to accept that. I suggest you meditate on these ideas in the coming weeks, Cancerian. Paradoxically, they may help you be content with how you finish up the current phase of your beloved project.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): I highly recommend that you spend the next three weeks hanging out on a beach every day, dividing your time between playing games with friends, sipping cool drinks, reading books you've always wanted to read, and floating dreamily in warm water. To indulge in this relaxing extravaganza would be in maximum alignment with the current cosmic rhythms. If you can't manage such a luxurious break from routine, please at least give yourself the gift of some other form of recreation that will renew and refresh you all the way down to the core of your destiny.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Contemporaries of the ancient Greek philosopher Pythagoras told colorful stories about the man. Some believed he was the son of a god and that one of his thighs was made of gold. When he crossed the Casas River, numerous witnesses testified that the river called out his name and welcomed him. Once a snake bit him, but he suffered no injury, and killed the snake by biting it in return. On another occasion, Pythagoras supposedly coaxed a dangerous bear to stop committing violent acts. These are the kinds of legends I expect you to spread about yourself in the coming days, Virgo. It's time to boost your reputation to a higher level.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): My counsel may seem extreme, but I really think you should avoid midliness and meekness and modesty. For the immediate future, you have a mandate to roar and cavort and exult. It's your sacred duty to be daring and experimental and exploratory. The cosmos and I want to enjoy the show as you take like you have the right to express your soul's code with brazen confidence and unabashed freedom. The cosmos and I want to squeal with joy as you reveal raw truths in the most emotionally intelligent ways possible.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): French novelist Honoré Balzac periodically endured intense outbreaks of creativity. "Sometimes it seems that my brain is on fire," he testified after a 26-day spell when he never left his writing room. I'm not predicting anything quite as manic as that for you, Scorpio. But I do suspect you will soon be blessed (and maybe a tiny bit cursed) by a prolonged bout of fervent inspiration. To ensure that you make the best use of this challenging gift, get clear about how you want it to work for you. Don't let it boss you. Be its boss.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Ancient civilizations waged war constantly. From Mesopotamia to China to Africa, groups of people rarely went very long without fighting other groups of people. There was one exception: the Harappan culture that thrived for about 2,000 years in the Indus River Valley, which in the present day stretches through Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India. Archaeologists have found little evidence of warfare there. Signs of mass destruction and heavy armaments are non-existent. Art from that era and area does not depict military conflict. One conclusion we might be tempted to draw from this data is that human beings are not inherently combative and violent. In any case, I want to use the Harappan civilization's extended time of peace as a metaphor for your life in the next eight weeks. I believe (and hope!) you're entering into a phase of very low conflict.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Every human being I've ever known, me included, has to wage a continuous struggle between these pairs of opposites: 1. bad habits that waste their vitality and good habits that harness their vitality; 2. demoralizing addictions that keep them enslaved to the past and invigorating addictions that inspire them to create their best possible future. How's your own struggle going? I suspect you're in the midst of a turning point. Here's a tip that could prove useful: Feeding the good habits and invigorating addictions may cause the bad habits and demoralizing addictions to lose some of their power over you.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "Some books seem like a key to unfamiliar rooms in one's own castle," said author Franz Kafka. I suspect this idea will be especially relevant to you in the coming weeks, Aquarius. And more than that: In addition to books, other influences may also serve as keys to unfamiliar rooms in your inner castle. Certain people, for instance, may do and say things that give you access to secrets you've been keeping from yourself. A new song or natural wonderland may open doors to understandings that will transform your relationship with yourself. To prep you for these epiphanies, I'll ask you to imagine having a dream at night in which you're wandering through a house you know very well. But this time, you discover there's a whole new wing of the place that you never knew existed.

♈ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Just for now, let's say it's fine to fuel yourself with comfort food and sweet diversions. Let's proceed on the hypothesis that the guardians of your future want you to treat yourself like a beloved animal who needs extra love and attention. So go right ahead and spend a whole day (or two) in bed reading and ruminating and listening to soul-beguiling music. Take a tour through your favorite memories. Move extra slowly. Do whatever makes you feel most stable and secure. Imagine you're like a battery in the process of getting recharged.

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7pm : laura and sean's
movie & music trivia
10pm : xiii arrows
ian valor, out all night

sat : may 26
7pm : trivia mafia presents
331 drinkin' spelling bee
10pm : porch knights

sun : may 27
3-5pm : no fun sunday presents
shannon murray (ed release)
8pm : trivia mafia

mon : may 28
8pm : the roe family singers
10pm : doug otto and friends

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| 59 | | | | | | | | 60 | | | | | | |

BUGGING OUT

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

Across

- 1 Manhattan Transfer classic
8 Strong cup
15 Its national anthem is "Zdravljica"
16 Water world?
17 Stymie
18 Some chickens
19 Chopper
20 Real estate parcels
21 Cutting sound
22 "Beware the Book of ____" (Ski Mask The Slump God mixtape)
23 Brad Stevens coaches them, briefly
25 TV star with a long face
27 Drop down
28 Lo-fidelity sound
29 Life stories
30 NBA TV analyst Brown
31 Black key material
33 "Big Easy" university
34 "Be careful what you say," with "The" ... and a hint to this puzzle's theme

- 37 Circle part
38 Touches down
39 Heavy coat?
40 Some hooters
41 One of the aliens on "The Simpsons"
45 Hit, Old Testament-style
46 "Mon ____!"
47 Papal hat
48 Chi. clock setting

- 49 Courtney Love's band
50 Chooser's nonsense word
52 Ironic shirt, maybe
53 Formal written defense
55 South Australian capital
57 More wanting a date
58 2018 Basketball Hall of Fame inductee
59 Clambake centerpiece
60 Some circulars

Down

- 1 "The Well-Tempered Clavier" composer's signature
2 Russian opposition leader Navalny
3 What aioli is mostly made of?
4 Bird prefix
5 Comes together
6 ____ -European
7 Onetime Asian Communists
8 Cojones
9 Grunge outfit
10 Growly voice
11 Tympanometry doc
12 Reinforcing construction piece
13 Some steaks
14 New Hampshire lake, river or town
24 "The Waste Land" poet
26 I, pretentiously
27 Revolutionary patriot Casimir
29 Like a ____

- 30 Colored
32 Moving picture quality?
33 Change for a c-note
34 What a cat leaves on the couch after moving somewhere else
35 Ticket phrase
36 Going for
37 Imps
40 More viscous
42 Hun hon
43 Had to have
44 Salad veggies
46 Herd calf
47 Heat-resistant material
49 MMA star Holly
51 Singer who is a judge on "World of Dance"
54 Place that's an anagram of 56-Down
56 Drink that's an anagram of 54-Down

Last Week's Answer

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | L | I | R | T | L | E | N | S | C | O | V | E |
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SAVAGE LOVE

Pissy

The rules of etiquette
at a watersports party



Dan Savage

I like watersports, and I heard about a guy in a rural area who holds piss parties in his backyard. I found a mailing list for those interested in piss play, and it wasn't long before he posted about one of these parties. People on the list talk a big game, but no one else has stepped up to host something, including me. (I would, but four neighbors look into my backyard.) The host has very simple rules for who can attend: You have to identify as a guy and wear masculine attire. I get to the party, and there were about four guys and the host. I had a good time. The host had plenty of drinks out, towels, chairs, canopies, and candles to ward off the mosquitos. I've been back a couple times. Everyone is friendly enough and there's the right amount of perversion. So what's the problem? The host. He's loud and annoying. He insists on putting classical music on (it doesn't set the mood very well). He tells the same lame jokes every time he's pissing on someone. He will complain that people say they're coming and don't show. If you are having a moment with someone, he will invariably horn in on the action. Without being rude, I've tried to make it clear that we are not looking for company, but he doesn't take the hint. It's his party, and props to him for hosting it—but it takes the fun out of it when the host doesn't know when to back off. I've gotten to the point where it's not worth the effort to go. Do I just get over it, or say something privately?

PERSON EXASPERATES ENTHUSIAST

The advice I gave a different reader about dealing with a guest horning in on the action at an orgy applies in your case: "Even kind and decent people can be terrible about taking hints—especially when doing so means getting cut out of a drunken fuckfest. So don't hint, tell. There's no rule of etiquette that can paper over the discomfort and awkwardness of that moment, so you'll just have to power through it."

Swap out "drunken fuckfest" for "drenchin' piss scene," and the advice works—up to a point, PEE, because the person in your case who needs telling, not hinting, isn't one of the guests, he's the host. But your host's behavior sounds genuinely annoying. Hosting a sex party

doesn't give someone the right to insert himself into someone else's scene, and stupid jokes have the power to kill the mood and murder the boners.

So what do you do?

Well, you could send your host an email or give him a call. Thank him for the invite, let him know you appreciate the effort he goes to, and then tell him why some people say they're coming and don't show: You're too loud, your music is awful, you have a bad habit of horning in on the action, and you need to learn some new jokes to tell when you're pissing on someone (or, better yet, not tell any jokes at all). But ticking off a list of his shortcomings is only going to get you crossed off the invite list to future parties.

So why not make your own piss party? You don't need a big backyard—I mean, presumably your place has a tub. Supplement your tub with a couple of kiddie pools on top of some plastic tarp laid down on the living room or basement floor. Ask your guests to keep it in the tub, pool, or on the tarp. You get to choose the guys, you get to select the music, and, as host, you can lay down the law about making jokes and horning in on the action.

One last thought: If you have it in you to invest some time in getting to know this guy—if you treat him like a human being—you might be able to draw him out on something that clearly frustrates him: guys who say they're coming to the party but don't show. If he seems genuinely baffled, PEE, that's your opening to ask if he'd like some constructive feedback. If he says yes, you can very gently run through your list of ways to improve his parties: no jokes, better music, and a "no horning in" rule for all (not just for him).

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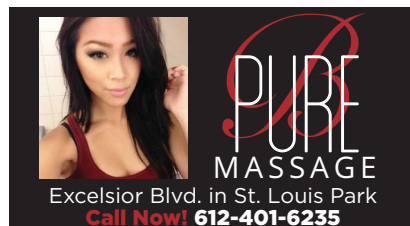
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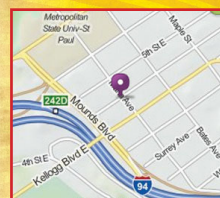


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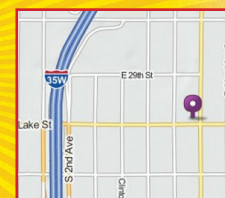
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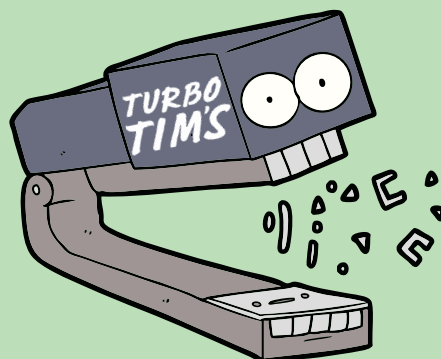
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